

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. By this response, claims 1, 11 and 15 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter contained in claim 12.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 10 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Komaki, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,160); claims 2, 3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Komaki, et al.; claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Komaki, et al. in view of Kim, (U.S. Patent No. 5,384,514); claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Komaki, et al. in view of Shinoda (U.S. Patent No. 5,661,500) and claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Komaki, et al. in view of Shinoda, et al. and Kim, et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action alleges that Komaki discloses each and every feature of the present invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 15. Applicants respectfully disagree as explained below in detail.

The Office Action alleges that the "T" shaped electrodes provides the claimed narrowing feature of the electrodes of the present invention. In the

response to applicant's previous arguments, the Office Action contends that the meaning of the word "increment" is defined such that the "T" electrodes could be considered as incrementally narrowing. Applicants note that the meaning of words recited in the claims should be considered based on the context in which they have been used and the description provided within the specification. Claims 1 and 15 each recite narrowing across the electrode segment. Thus, the electrode is narrowing at each point or increment along the outer edge in a direction away from the linear edge which causes a narrowing across the electrode.

However, in order to clarify this feature of the claims, applicants have amended claims 1 and 15 to now recite features of narrowing continuously across the electrode segment. Thus, when measuring across the electrode, the electrode is continuously narrowing from the linear edges toward the bus. Komaki fails to teach or disclose this feature of narrowing continuously across the electrode segment. The "T" shaped electrode narrows only at one point on the electrode and not in a continuous manner across the electrode. Thus, Komaki fails to teach each and every feature recited in claims 1 and 15. Furthermore, Shinoda and Kim fail to make up for the deficiencies of Komaki. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nunomura (U.S. Patent No. 6,479,932) and claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nunomura in view of Okumura, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,633). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action alleges that Nunomura teaches each and every feature of the claimed invention as recited in independent claim 11. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 11 recites, *inter alia*, a barrier structure and a dielectric layer, the inner surfaces of which being disposed along one or more of the outer ends of said plurality of display element electrodes, thereby defining a plurality of cells, each of which is coated with a phosphor member activated by a discharge of energy from one of said plurality of display element electrodes so as to emit light.

The Office Action alleges that the features provided in Figs. 5 and 6 of Nunomura teach applicant's invention recited in claim 11. Nunomura provides a plasma display apparatus having an electrode which is connected to a coupling band and projection (61, 62) for connection to a bus (14). Partition walls (17) are provided adjacent to the electrodes in a direction parallel to the projections. Empty space (22, 25) is provided around the electrode.

Nunomura fails to teach or suggest a dielectric layer which is used in conjunction with the barrier structure to define a plurality of electrode cells, as recited in claim 11. Therefore, each and every feature of claim 11 is not taught by the reference as required under 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection. Furthermore, Okumura fails to make up for deficiencies of Nunomura. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-11 and 13-15 are distinguishable over the cited references. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's representative at the number listed below.


Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH &, BIRCH, LLP

By: _____


Michael R. Cammarata
Reg. No. 39,491

MRC/CJB:cb
0925-0167P

P.O. Box 747
(703) 205-8000
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

MARKED-UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES BEING MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1, 11 and 15 with the following:

Claim 1. (Twice Amended)

A plasma display apparatus comprising:

a plurality of display element electrodes each including a pair of electrode segments with linear edges opposing each other, separated by a gap of predetermined distance, in which the width of each of said electrode segments [incrementally] narrows continuously across the display element electrode segment beginning at [in the direction away from] the associated one of said linear edges and in a direction away from the linear edges toward a bus electrode to which the display element electrode is connected;

a front substrate on which said plurality of display element electrodes are arranged along a row direction and a column direction;

a barrier structure, the inner surfaces of which being disposed along the outer ends of said plurality of display element electrodes thereby defining a plurality of cells each of which is coated with a phosphor member and is activated by a discharge of energy from one of said plurality of display element electrodes so as to emit light; and

a back substrate disposed opposing said front substrate with, said barrier structure therebetween.

Claim 11. (Twice Amended)

A plasma display apparatus comprising:

a plurality of display element electrodes each including a pair of rectangular electrode segments with linear edges opposing each other, separated by a gap of predetermined distance;

a front substrate on which said plurality of display element electrodes are arranged along a row direction and a column direction;

a barrier structure and a dielectric layer, the inner surfaces of which being disposed along one or more of the outer ends of said plurality of display element electrodes, thereby defining a plurality of cells each of which is coated with a phosphor member activated by a discharge of energy from one of said plurality of display element electrodes so as to emit light; and

a back substrate disposed opposing said front substrate with said barrier structure therebetween.

Claim 15. (Amended)

A plasma display apparatus comprising:

a plurality of display element electrodes each including a pair of electrode segments with linear edges opposing each other, separated by a gap of predetermined distance, each of said electrode segments having a portion where the width continuously [of which] narrows across the electrode segment in the direction away from the associated one of said linear edges toward a bus electrode to which the display element electrode is connected;

a front substrate on which said plurality of display element electrodes are arranged along a row direction and a column direction;

a barrier structure, the inner surfaces of which being disposed along the outer ends of said plurality of display element electrodes thereby defining a plurality of cells each of which is coated with a phosphor member and is activated by a discharge of energy from one of said plurality of display element electrodes so as to emit light; and

a back substrate disposed opposing said front substrate with, said barrier structure therebetween.